

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05267 240836Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2596

S E C R E T MANILA 5267

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE MAP PROVIDED HARDWARE AND ASSOCIATED
REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 93101 B. STATE 93158

1. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES THAT U.S. SERVICE-FUNDED VIETNAMESE MAP AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS MAY ATTEMPT SAFEHAVEN IN PHILIPPINES, FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES MAY BE HELPFUL IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

2. GOP VIEWS TOWARD EVACUATED VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS WOULD BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY (A) OUR LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR REASSERTION OF TITLE, (B) VOICED ATTITUDES OF HANOI AND ANY NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON, AND (C) GOP PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING SUCH EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR OWN USE.

3. IF AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS SAFEHAVENED AT CLARK AND SUBIC, IT IS LESS LIKELY GOP WOULD QUESTION OUR ASSERTION OF TITLE. IF HANOI TRIED TO MAKE ISSUE, BELIEVE WE COULD EVACUATE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS BEFORE IT BECAME SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT WITH GOP. GOP'S TOLERANCE FOR CONTENTION WITH HANOI WOULD CERTAINLY INCREASE AT THE PROSPECTS OUR TURNING THE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS OVER TO THE GOP.

4. SHOULD AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS ARRIVE IN PHILIPPINES AT POINTS OTHER THAN U.S. BASES, BELIEVE IT ALMOST CERTAIN GOP
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WOULD IMPOUND AND WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TURN OVER TO US

REGARDLESS OF LEGAL ARGUMENTS. DOUBTFUL GOP WOULD RETURN TO

SUCCESSOR VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND GOP WOULD HOPE IT COULD
EVENTUALLY SLIP EQUIPMENT INTO OWN INVENTORY.

5. REFUGEES ACCOMPANYING AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS LANDING AT U.S.
BASES WOULD BE VIEWED BY GOP AS USG RESPONSIBILITY AND
WOULD ASSUME WE WOULD REMOVE FROM PHILIPPINES AS HIGH-RISK
EVACUEES. REFUGEES ARRIVING ON AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS AT
POINTS OTHER THAN U.S. BASES WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC
CONSIDERATION FROM GOP BUT GOP WOULD ATTEMPT TO PASS THEM
TO US, OR FAILING THAT, TO UNHCR. IN EVENT, GOP
WOULD SEEK THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO AVOID FURTHER
EMBARRASSMENT IN FUTURE RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIMES IN
INDOCHINA.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO SECDEF, JCS, SAIGON,
CINCPAC, 13TH AF AND CINCPACREPPHIL.
SULLIVAN

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